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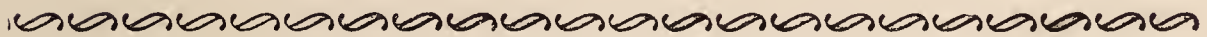
Wigan Rural District Council



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health



FOR THE YEAR 1952



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Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :

J. K. HODGE, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

N. GASKELL, ESQ.

Councillors :

I. CROPPER, ESQ.

J. H. GILL, ESQ.

E. T. HAMPSON, ESQ., M.B.E., J.P.

J. PRESCOTT, ESQ.

J. SCHOFIELD, ESQ.

W. THOMPSON, ESQ.

Clerk :

ROBERT GASKELL, F.C.C.S., F.A.C.C.A.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING.

Water Inspector :

H. CARRINGTON.

10, Bridgeman Terrace,

Wigan.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wigan Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, compiled, as in previous years, in the abbreviated form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER.

August, 1953.

Wigan Rural District Council

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area : 11,695 acres.

Population (Census 1951—	8,213
Estimated mid-1952 (Registrar-General)	8,014
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1952—	
according to Rate Book	2,417
Rateable Value	£45,064
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£174

The chief industries of the Wigan Rural District are agriculture, stone quarrying, glue manufacture, bleaching and dyeing, malt extract manufacture, brick making. Certain districts are mainly residential.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	55	57	112
(Illegitimate)	1	4	5
	—	—	—
TOTAL	56	61	117
	—	—	—
Still Births (Legitimate)	2	1	3
(Illegitimate)	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Total.....	2	2	4
	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :			
(Legitimate)	5	1	6
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total	5	1	6
	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :			
(Legitimate)	3	1	4
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total	3	1	4
	—	—	—
DEATHS			71

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1952	14.6
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.....	8.9

T A B L E I.

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		INFANT MORTALITY.			
									TOTAL		Neo-Natal	
	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Year1952	117	14.6	71	8.9	4	33	Nil.	Nil.	6	51	4	34
Year 1951	117	14.8	116	14.8	1	8	Nil.	Nil.	3	26	2	17
" 1950	103	12.8	103	12.8	2	19	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
" 1949	130	16.3	99	12.4	2	15	Nil.	Nil.	3	23	Nil.	Nil.
" 1948	151	19.0	82	10.3	2	13	Nil.	Nil.	6	39	Nil.	Nil.
" 1947	148	19.4	88	11.5	4	26	Nil.	Nil.	9	60	Nil.	Nil.
Avg. 5 yrs 1947-1951	—	16.4	—	12.3	—	16	—	Nil.	—	29	—	3

In the next table are shown the chief causes of Death and the number of Deaths from each cause in 1952, with comparative figures for 1951 :—

TABLE II.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	No. of Deaths			
	1952.		1951.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	2	1	1
Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	1	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	1	—
Meningococcal Infections.....	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Cancer	4	4	7	6
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	—	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	4	8	5
Coronoray Disease, Angina.....	7	5	11	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	—	—	1	—
Other Heart Disease	7	8	17	15
Other Circulatory Disease	1	1	—	1
Influenza.....	1	1	5	6
Pneumonia	2	—	1	1
Bronchitis	3	1	2	3
Other Disease of Respiratory System	—	1	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	1	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	2	—	—	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3	5	7	1
Suicide and Other Violent Causes	3	2	5	—
	36	35	71	45

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall, Manchester. The arrangements are satisfactory, a report being received on every examination.

Seven water bacteriological examination reports were received from the Wigan Royal Infirmary during the year and three from the County Analyst, Preston.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Parishes obtain water supplies from the following sources :—

DALTON	Wrightington Borehole and Spring Water.
HAIGH	Blackrod U.D.C. }
WORTHINGTON	Standish U.D.C. }
SHEVINGTON	Standish U.D.C. }
PARBOLD	Own Supply Deep Well Water and Spring Water.
ANDERTON'S MILL.....	Chorley R.D.C. Upland Surface Water

TABLE III.

WATER SUPPLIES.

PARISH	Number of Dwelling houses	Supplied by Wigan R.D.C.	Supplied by Other Authorities	No. of Houses without public Water Supply
DALTON	147	109	10 (Up Holland)	28
WORTHINGTON	52	2	24 (Standish) 3(Chorley R.D.) 15(Wigan C.B.)	8
HAIGH	240	224	15 (Aspull)	1
PARBOLD.....	307	294	—	13
SHEVINGTON	941	941	—	—
WRIGHTINGTON	765	712	9 (Hospital)	44
	2,452	2,282	76	94

Table showing Consumption by Trade and Domestic Users.

Parish	Estimated “ Water ” Population	Average Daily Consumption (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of “ Water ” Population.		
		Domestic	Trade	Supplied to other Districts	Domestic	Trade	Total
WRIGHTINGTON	2,600	46,904	27,100	Bispham4,732	18.04	10.40	28.44
SHEVINGTON	3,200	55,262	10,609	....	17.20	3.31	20.51
PARBOLD	930	15,900	3,773	....	17.09	4.05	21.14
HAIGH	770	20,300	16,434	Aspull 24,460	26.36	21.34	47.70
DALTON	400	5,400	6,562	....	13.50	16.40	29.90
TOTAL	7,900	143,766	64,478	....	18.20	8.01	26.21

Average Daily Total,
Domestic and Trade 208,244

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1952) :—

Number of Privy Middens	235
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens.....	378
Number of Pail Closets	569
Number of Freshwater Closets	1,709
Number of Dry Ashpits	25
Number of Movable Ashbins	1,839
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	1,559

During the year 19 privy closets were converted to fresh w.c.s and 12 to pails ; 25 movable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Two refuse vehicles with 12 workmen are engaged on House Scavenging.

Pails are collected by the Council's Cesspool Emptying Vehicle.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

A special Cesspool Emptying Vehicle is engaged on regular cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks. Tipping is carried out on agricultural land when suitable, or otherwise into the public sewer.

SEWERAGE.

During the year Part I of the Shevington Sewerage Scheme was completed.

Part II of the Sewerage Scheme was almost completed.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Occasional Inspections under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934 and the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices and to sanitary conveniences were carried out during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

There are two Camping Sites in the Rural District.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the District.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Three houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by stoving and spraying with sulphur dioxide and gammexane.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The manufacture of glue is carried on in the Appley Bridge area under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

CANAL BOATS.

No infringements of the Acts were discovered.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient, and the facilities for handling meals are considered to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—There is still a long list of urgent housing applications, particularly in Shevington. During the year the Council's Housing Programme has been accelerated by the completion of 20 houses in Shevington and the commencement of further Contracts for 104 houses and flats. Development of the site proceeded rapidly.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—
Traditional permanent houses :

(i)	By the Local Authority	20
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	—
(iii)	By other bodies and persons	5

1.—INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year :		
(i)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	188
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	240
(ii)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932)	6
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	10
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	62

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices :		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	95

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year:		
A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs....	1
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) by owners	1
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) by owners	6
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|---|---|
| (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 1 |
| (ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | — |

D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|---|---|
| (i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | — |
|---|---|

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—Overcrowding :—

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|
| (a) | (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year approximately | (est.) 42 |
| | (ii) Number of families dwelling therein approx. | 76 |
| | (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein approx. | 278 |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 7 |
| (c) | (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 28 |
| | (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | 107 |

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—An adequate supply of milk is produced within or brought into the district. 7 samples of milk were taken and subjected to the biological test for Tuberculosis. All were negative.

(b) ICE CREAM.—3 samples of ice cream were taken and found satisfactory.

(c) MEAT.—There is no slaughtering in the district other than the slaughter of pigs under Ministry of Food Licence. Occasionally pigs killed privately are inspected.

There are two registered slaughter-houses with shops attached. Periodic inspections are made and any unsound meat rejected.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, compared with 11 cases during 1951.

31 cases of Measles, 4 cases of Whooping Cough and 1 case of Pneumonia were notified during the year.

I am pleased to report that there was no outbreak of Food Poisoning in the District during the year.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child and is performed at the Clinic by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers or by the General Practitioners in their Surgeries. During 1952, 92 pre-school and 51 school-children completed a full course of primary immunisation with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. In addition, 118 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the District remains high, and cases of infestation by lice dealt with at the Clinics were few, and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

TABLE IV.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1952.

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	31	2	4	3	4	4	11	3			
Whooping Cough	4	1			1		2				
Pneumonia	1				1						2
TOTALS	36	3	4	3	6	4	13	3			

Distribution over the several Parishes was as follows :—

	Cases.	Total No. of Cases.
DALTON :		
Whooping Cough	1	
	—	1
HAIGH :		
Measles	1	
Pneumonia	1	
	—	2
PARBOLD :		
Measles	3	
	—	3
SHEVINGTON :		
Measles	7	
	—	7
WORTHINGTON :		
Measles	2	
	—	2
WRIGHTINGTON :		
Measles	18	
Whooping Cough	3	
	—	21
		—
		36
		—

CANCER.

8 Deaths, 4 Males and 4 Females, occurred in 1952 compared with 13 Deaths, 7 Males and 6 Females in 1951.

Cancer cases are treated at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic, which works in close conjunction with the Manchester Unit.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920 is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows :—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952 :

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
65-over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	2

Notification of the Disease is prompt and satisfactory. The Manchester Regional Hospital Board provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Chest Clinic is in Millgate, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctor, or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47 :

Action was necessary under the above Section as amended by Section I of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, for the purpose of securing necessary care and attention for an old lady aged 78 years who was living in insanitary conditions at Dalton. She was suffering from grave chronic disease and was unable to devote to herself, and was not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

A Court Order covering a period of three weeks was obtained, and she was admitted to Billinge Hospital, where she died 14 days after admission.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :....

PREMISES. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	No. of Inspections (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	19	17
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	10	3
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises)	3	4	2
TOTAL		33	22

*Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

One case of want of cleanliness, overcrowding and lack of ventilation was found and remedied.

One case of faulty drainage was found and remedied.

Two cases of unsuitable and defective sanitary conveniences were found and remedied. (S.7.).

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 110 AND 111).

The number of out-workers in the August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) was 1 Wearing-apparel maker and 5 Stuffed Toy-makers.

G. H. POTTER,
Medical Officer of Health.

